Amendments to the Claims

1-8. (canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An HIV-2 packaging vector ~~of claim 7~~ comprising a 5' splice donor site (SD) and an upstream and a downstream packaging signal sequence, wherein both the upstream and downstream packaging signal sequences are functionally deleted to reduce packaging of progeny viral RNA by more than 80%, but the SD is functionally intact, wherein functional deletion of the upstream and downstream packaging signal sequences comprises:

deletion of nucleotides 306-458 upstream of the SD, and deletion of nucleotides 486-538 downstream of the SD; or

deletion of nucleotides 306-370 upstream of the SD, and deletion of nucleotides 486-538 downstream of the SD; or

deletion of nucleotides 371-458 upstream of the SD, and deletion of nucleotides 486-538 downstream of the SD.

10. (canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The packaging vector of claim [[7]]9, further comprising a 3' LTR, a 5' LTR, and a heterologous promotor CMV.

12. (Currently Amended) The packaging vector of claim [[8]] 9, further comprising a ~~wherein the 3'LTR is~~ functionally deleted 3'LTR.

13. (original) The packaging vector of claim 12, wherein the 3'LTR is replaced with a heterologous transcriptional termination sequence.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An HIV-2 packaging vector ~~of claim 7~~, comprising a 5' splice donor site (SD) and an upstream and a downstream packaging signal sequence, wherein both the upstream and downstream packaging signal sequences are functionally deleted to reduce packaging of progeny viral RNA by more than 80%, but the SD is functionally intact, wherein the upstream packaging signal corresponds to nucleotides downstream from nucleotide 300 and upstream from the SD, and the downstream packaging signal corresponds to nucleotides downstream from the SD and upstream from nucleotide 539.

15. (Currently Amended) The packaging vector of claim [[7]]9, wherein the functional deletions in the packaging vector decreases syncytia induction relative to an HIV-2 vector having functional upstream and downstream packaging signal sequences.